



BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF
Medical Officer of Health
FOR
1947


JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health
Medical Officer—Maternity and Child Welfare



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List of Members of the Chatham Council

THE MAYOR (Alderman F. H. Lawrence, J.P.)

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Mrs. F. M. Freeman)

Alderman E. G. Maynard.

Alderman M. Packer.

Alderman H. J. Stearne, C.C.

Alderman W. F. Hollands.

Alderman W. Blackmore.

Councillor R. Homden.

Councillor A. S. Price, J.P.

Councillor F. Semple, B.Sc.

Councillor Rev. J. McCulloch, M.A.

Councillor J. S. Thomas.

Councillor T. A. Stearne.

Councillor W. G. Hogg.

Councillor G. W. Pagett, M.A.

Councillor J. Presnail.

Councillor L. Shave, C.C.

Councillor P. J. Kelly.

Councillor G. Balderston.

Councillor C. E. Harvey.

Councillor W. J. B. Bliss, J.P.

Councillor G. W. Hitches.

Councillor A. Mattocks.

Councillor G. W. Rhodes.

Public Health Committee

This consists of the whole of the members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN : Councillor G. W. Hitches

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee

CHAIRMAN : THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Mrs. F. M. Freeman)

THE MAYOR : (Alderman F. H. Lawrence, J.P.)

Alderman M. Packer.

Alderman W. F. Hollands.

Alderman W. Blackmore.

Councillor A. S. Price, J.P.

Councillor F. Semple, B.Sc.

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Councillor J. Presnail.

Councillor L. Shave, C.C.

Councillor P. Kelly.

Councillor G. Balderston.

Councillor C. E. Harvey.

Councillor W. J. B. Bliss, J.P.

Councillor A. Mattocks.

Councillor G. W. Rhodes.

Together with the following co-optative members :—

Mesdames

Lawrence, Bliss, Garrett, Grieveson, Hollands and Hawkins.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health :

James C. Sleigh, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

Sheila M. Niall, L.M.S.S.A., D.C.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

Thomas Howard (a) (b)

Senior District Sanitary Inspector :

A. E. South (a) (b)

District Sanitary Inspectors :

H. Taylor (a) (b)

R. W. Wright (a)

Senior Health Visitor :

Miss S. F. Nixon (c) (d) (e)

Health Visitors :

Miss R. A. Tipple (c) (d) (e).

Miss P. Procopiou (c) (d) (e),

Miss A. E. Webster (c) (d) (e),

Mrs. Blackwell (part-time) (c) (d) (e),

Mrs. Murray (part-time School Nurse) (c) (d).

Chief Clerk :

H. L. Clark.

Clerks :

A. C. Strike,

Miss J. Coffey,

Miss S. Springate,

P. I. Monk,

Miss K. Douglas (temporary).

Clinic Clerks :

Miss G. Hakeman,

Miss E. Edge.

Matron :

MAIDA ROAD DAY NURSERY

Miss E. Raine (f).

- (a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (b) Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) State Registered Nurse.
- (d) State Certified Midwife.
- (e) Health Visitor's Certificate.
- (f) Certificated Nursery Nurse.

Borough of Chatham

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham.

MR. MAYOR, MESDAMES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of Chatham for the year 1947.

This will be the last report containing the statistics for Maternity and Child Welfare and certain other services for a full year. On the 5th July, 1948, they pass from your control to that of the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The services to be transferred have been steadily built up over a period of years to what, I consider, is a very high state of efficiency and whether their transfer will be for the benefit of the people of Chatham—and they are the only people that matter—only time will show.

The modern tendency appears to be for greater centralization of all services. On paper it looks excellent but I fear that the loss of personal touch and the ability to make quick decisions will militate heavily against the new set up. It is agreed that certain of the more specialized services such as Child Guidance, Orthopaedics, etc., can be more efficiently provided by a big authority such as the County Council but the day to day administration of the ordinary Child Welfare and Ante-Natal clinics, Home Helps and Day Nurseries, etc., within the general policy laid down by the County Council, must be delegated to the people on the spot.

The Act specifies that the control of policy and finance rests on the County Council but by no means precludes the handing over to County District Councils of the day to day management within the limits of policy laid down by the County Council. This point of view was pressed by the representatives of the Kent Borough and Urban Districts and Kent Rural Districts in meetings with the County Council but to no avail. You made representations to the Minister on the same lines but again with no success.

The general health of the people has been good. Infectious diseases have not been prevalent and infant mortality has again been low.

This will be the last report I shall have the honour to present to you. In the eleven years I have been here many changes have taken place and, but for the war, many further improvements would have been carried out.

During the war years we built up one of the finest casualty services in the country and the training put in then cannot but be of service to the community for many years to come.

I would pay homage to my staff, particularly to Dr. S. Niall and Mr. Howard, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for their loyal and eager co-operation and to you, Mr. Mayor, Mesdames and Gentlemen, during the eleven years I have held the office of Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	4,356
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	40,650
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:—	
Dwellinghouses	11,325
Shops with living accommodation	689
Licensed Premises with living accommodation ...	108
Rateable Value	£289,223
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,125

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate ...	514	471	985
Illegitimate ...	28	24	52
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... ..	...	...	25.5
Stillbirths ... ..	...	...	19
Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... ..	...	...	25.98
Deaths	312	250	562
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... ..	...	...	13.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	1	0.94
Total	1	0.94

Death Rate of Infants Under 1 Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births	38.5
--	------

Births

The number of births recorded is 1,037 as compared to 964 in 1946.

Deaths

There were 562 deaths. During the previous five years there were:—

1946	485
1945	501
1944	501
1943	513
1942	520

The number of deaths occurring each month, at different age groups was as follows:—

Age	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Age group total
All under 1 year	4	7	7	1	4	6	2	2	2	2	2	1	40
1 and under 5	1	1	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
5 and under 15	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	7
15 and under 25	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	—	2	16
25 and under 45	4	3	10	—	1	4	1	2	8	4	3	3	43
45 and under 65	18	11	15	8	8	10	7	6	7	12	10	15	127
65 and over	41	46	38	34	31	29	15	17	19	30	8	13	321
Monthly Totals	72	70	72	47	46	52	27	28	37	51	25	35	562

The following table shows the increases and decreases in population since 1921:—

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural increase per 1,000 Population
1921	23.4	12.8	10.6
1922	22.2	12.1	10.1
1923	21.1	10.7	10.4
1924	19.8	13.3	6.5
1925	20.3	11.7	8.6
1926	20.2	13.2	7.0
1927	21.1	13.9	7.2
1928	18.0	11.8	6.2
1929	18.0	14.2	3.8
1930	18.5	10.8	7.7
1931	18.0	14.4	3.6
1932	17.5	12.4	5.1
1933	15.1	11.5	3.6
1934	15.2	11.4	3.8
1935	16.3	11.2	5.1
1936	15.5	11.9	3.6
1937	16.2	12.4	3.8
1938	15.95	12.2	3.75
1939	16.1	12.4	3.7
1940	19.55	15.58	3.97
1941	19.06	14.51	4.55
1942	19.03	14.5	4.53
1943	20.1	14.38	5.72
1944	23.7	14.23	9.47
1945	20.73	13.8	6.93
1946	24.37	12.3	12.07
1947	25.5	13.8	11.7

TOTAL DEATHS, 1947

	Chatham M.B.		
	Causes of Death	M.	F.
	All Causes	312	250
1.	Typhoid Fever, etc.	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	2	—
5.	Diphtheria	2	—
6.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	19	13
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	3	1
9.	Influenza	2	—
10.	Measles	—	—
11.	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
12.	Ac. inf. enceph	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buc. cav. & oesoph (m) uterus (f)	6	7
14.	Cancer of stomach & duodenum	5	2
15.	Cancer of breast	—	9
16.	Cancer of all other sites	35	25
17.	Diabetes	—	1
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	20	21
19.	Heart Disease	97	75
20.	Other dis. of circ. system... ..	16	16
21.	Bronchitis	18	13
22.	Pneumonia	11	12
23.	Other resp. diseases	6	4
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	7	1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	6	1
26.	Appendicitis	1	2
27.	Other digve. diseases	4	6
28.	Nephritis	6	4
29.	Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	6	6
32.	Con. Mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	4	6
33.	Suicide	8	3
34.	Road traffic accidents	2	2
35.	Other violent causes	7	5
36.	All other causes	17	14
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total	21	19
	{ Legitimate	20	16
	{ Illegitimate	1	3
	Live Births { Total	542	495
	{ Legitimate	514	471
	{ Illegitimate	28	24
	Still Births { Total —	12	7
	{ Legitimate	12	7
	{ Illegitimate	—	—
	RESIDENT POPULATION	40,650	

The following table shows the Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates during a period of 38 years:—

Period				Birth Rate per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 births
1910 to 1914 (average)	...	...	...	25.1	13.4	105
1915 to 1919 do.	...	...	...	22	18	97
1920 to 1924 do.	...	...	...	22.1	12.3	73
1925 ...	...	...	...	20.3	11.7	63
1926 ...	...	...	...	20.2	13.2	83
1927 ...	...	...	...	21.1	13.9	65
1928 ...	...	...	...	18.01	11.8	60
1929 ...	...	...	...	18.03	14.2	95
1930 ...	...	...	...	18.5	10.8	43
1931 ...	...	...	...	18	14.4	63
1932 ...	...	...	...	17.5	12.4	60
1933 ...	...	...	...	15.1	11.5	61
1934 ...	...	...	...	15.2	11.4	63
1935 ...	...	...	...	16.3	11.2	50
1936 ...	...	...	...	15.5	11.9	51
1937 ...	...	...	...	16.2	12.4	66
1938 ...	...	...	...	15.95	12.2	64.1
1939 ...	...	...	...	16.1	12.4	36.3
1940 ...	...	...	...	19.55	15.58	38.1
1941 ...	...	...	...	19.06	14.51	53.37
1942 ...	...	...	...	19.03	14.5	80.76
1943 ...	...	...	...	20.1	14.38	68.3
1944 ...	...	...	...	23.7	14.23	87.3
1945 ...	...	...	...	20.73	13.8	52.1
1946 ...	...	...	...	24.7	12.3	32.1
1947 ...	...	...	...	25.5	13.8	38.5

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C. B's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
	*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population			
<i>Births—</i>				
Live Births	20.5†	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still Births	0.50†	0.62	0.54	0.49
<i>Deaths—</i>				
All Causes	12.0†	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Para- typhoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
<i>Notifications—</i>				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet fever... ..	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

† Rates per 1,000 total population.

	England and Wales	126 C. B's and Great Towns including London	¹⁴⁸ Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
<i>Deaths—</i>				
All causes under 1 year of age ...	41*	47	36	37
Enteritis and Diar- rhoea under 2 years of age ...	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
<i>Notifications—</i>				
Puerperal fever ...	} 7.16	8.99	6.27	} 1.21 6.94†
Puerperal pyrexia ...				

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million Women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with sepsis ...	0.10	9
141 Abortion without sepsis ...	0.06	5
147 Puerperal infections ...	0.16	
142-146 } 148-150 } Other maternal causes	0.85	

* Per 1,000 related births.

† Including Puerperal fever.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, sputum, blood, milk, water or other suspected material are carried out in the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

Chemical examinations are done by the County Analyst.

There is no delay in sending results.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

1. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

(a) Ante-natal Clinics:

White Road	...	...	...	Tuesdays	a.m.
King's Road	...	...	...	Tuesdays	a.m.
Elm House	...	...	...	Thursdays	p.m.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics:

White Road	...	...	...	Mondays	p.m.
				Thursdays	p.m.
King's Road	...	...	...	Mondays	p.m.
				Fridays	p.m.
Elm House	...	...	...	Tuesdays	p.m.
				Fridays	p.m.

(c) Dental—by appointment.

(d) A combined Child Welfare and Ante Natal Clinic is held at the Methodist Hall, Walderslade, on the first Friday of each month.

2. *Diphtheria Immunisation.*

Elm House—Wednesdays p.m. (except the last Wednesday in the month).

White Road—The last Wednesday in the month, p.m.

King's Road—ditto.

3. *School Medical Service.*

(a) Minor Ailments and Minor Inspections.

Elm House—Mondays	}	9-10.30 a.m.
Wednesdays		
Fridays		

(b) Dental—by appointment.

(c) Refraction—by appointment.

(d) Medical Inspection at Schools.

(e) Ophthalmic Clinic—by appointment.

4. *Scabies Clinic, County Hospital.*

Thursdays			
Women and children	...	...	9 a.m. — 12 noon.
Men	...	...	6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

5. *Tuberculosis Dispensary, 13 New Road, Rochester.*

Tuesdays	...	...	2 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Fridays	...	...	9.30 a.m. — 10.30 a.m.

6. *Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases, 36 New Road, Rochester.*

Mondays	...	...	1.30 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.
Thursdays	...	...	10 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Nos. 3, 5 and 6 are provided by the County Council.

Ambulance Service

I am indebted to Capt. C. F. J. Hole, Superintendent of the Ambulance Service for the following information:—

The service which commenced on 1st January, 1947 covers the three Medway Towns and is comprised of:—

PERSONNEL: One Superintendent,
One Clerk,
Eight female drivers/attendants,
Thirteen male drivers/attendants.

VEHICLES: Four owned by the Corporations of Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester,
Two on loan from the British Red Cross Society,
Three on loan from St. John Ambulance Brigade
One on loan from the Kent County Constabulary.

PREMISES: Depot—situated at the junction of Lockington Grove and King Edward Road, Rochester, is comprised of :—
Eight Garages (one used as a coke and kerosene store),
One Nissen type hut used for Offices and Drivers room,
One brick building used as Stores and Superintendent's Quarters,
One small vehicle pit.

An effective system for the transportation of all patients to and from St. Bartholomew's Hospital has been put into operation on a time schedule principle. This has the full approval of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

An arrangement has been made whereby Ambulances of this service can take the place of the Isolation Hospital Ambulance in cases of emergency.

2,037 Chatham patients were carried during the year.

Nursing in the Home

The District Nursing Association employs three nurses who attend cases at the request of the Doctor in attendance. Should the occasion arise the Council has an arrangement with the Association for the home visiting of measles, whooping cough, Diphtheria and pneumonia.

Hospitals

COUNTY HOSPITAL

The present allocation of beds is as follows:—

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Cots</i>
General Medical	...	...	42	34	9
General Surgical	...	...	26	29	12
Maternity	...	...	—	28	28
Venereal Diseases	...	...		No special beds	
Ophthalmia	...	...		No special beds	
Tuberculosis	...	...	12	12	
Chronic Sick	...	...	28	63	
Mental	...	...	—	56	
Mental Deficiency	...	...		No special beds	
Orthopaedic	...	...		No special beds	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...		No special beds	
Isolation	...	...	4	4	

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, ROCHESTER

A general hospital containing 201 Beds, thus classified:—

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Surgical	...	...	52	54	106
Children	...	...	20		20
		(M. and F.)			
Orthopaedic	...	...	2	2	4
Observation	...	...	5	—	5
Medical	...	...	21	21	42
Ophthalmic	...	...	4	4	8
Cancer	...	...	8	8	16
					<hr/> 201 <hr/>

In-patients treated during 1947	...	...	3,425
Average number or occupied beds	...	...	170.6
No. of new Out-patients treated in 1947	...	...	18,404
No. of Out-patients attendances in 1947	...	...	102,950
Fourteen beds for private patients.			

St. Bartholomew's Hospital is fully equipped to deal with all acute general, medical and surgical cases, and in addition maintains the following special departments:—

Casualty (for accident and emergency cases at any hour of the day or night).
 Orthopaedic (including Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy Departments).
 Fracture.
 Ear, Nose and Throat.
 Dental.
 Ophthalmic (including Orthoptic).
 X-ray.
 Cancer—Radium and Deep X-ray Therapy.
 Massage and Electrical.
 Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory.
 Psychiatric Clinic.

Maternity and Child Welfare

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN

Beds are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the County Hospital for acute illness. If convalescent care is needed it is secured at a suitable institution and a Cot Fund is available. The Salvation Army and the Rochester Diocesan Society receive unmarried mothers in their homes.

Public Health Act, 1936

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

The requirements of this Act, which extends to children under the age of nine years, who are received for reward, necessitates frequent inspection to see that the premises are suitable, and that the children are properly cared for.

Number of Individual Foster Mothers receiving children under nine for reward apart from their parents at the end of the year:— 9.

Number of children under nine:

(1)	Received during the year	...	9
(2)	At the end of the year	... ..	9
(3)	Who died during the year	... ..	1
(4)	On whom inquests were held during the year	... ..	—

Dental Treatment

Arrangements for the dental treatment of nursing and expectant mothers have been made with Kent Education Committee on the same lines as existed prior to the coming into force of the 1944 Act. These arrangements were expanded to include the provision of dentures, and this service, providing dentures at a very low cost and in necessitous cases entirely free, has fully proved its value.

Details of work carried out during the year

<i>No. completing treatment</i>				<i>Anaesthetics</i>			
Adult	...	...	31	Local	...	...	84
Minor	...	...	46	General	...	...	—
<i>Attendance</i>				<i>Examination or Advice</i>			
Adult	...	...	187	Adult	...	...	10
Minor	...	...	65	Minor	...	...	5
<i>Extractions</i>				<i>Details of Prosthetic Treatment</i>			
Permanent	...	...	316	<i>Impressions</i>			
Temporary	...	...	26	Upper	...	...	16
<i>Teeth Filled</i>				Lower	...	...	15
Permanent	...	...	61	Bites	...	...	19
Temporary	...	...	...	Try-in	...	...	15
<i>Fittings Inserted</i>				<i>Dentures Fitted</i>			
<i>Dressings</i>				Upper	...	...	11
Permanent Teeth	...	...	8	Lower	...	...	8
Temporary Teeth	...	...	16	<i>Dentures re-made</i>			
<i>Other treatment</i>				Upper	...	...	1
Roof treatment	...	...	—	Lower	...	...	—
Crowns	...	...	—	<i>Dentures repaired</i>			
Scalings	...	...	9	Suction added after	...	...	—
Gum treatment	...	...	6	Fitting of denture	...	...	—
Syringing of sockets	...	...	14	Easing of dentures	...	...	4

Maternity Accommodation

During the year, all cases requiring Hospital accommodation for confinements were sent to Hospital—either to County Hospital, Chatham, or County Hospital, Tunbridge Wells. In the latter case they are sent over one week before the expected date to an Antenatal hostel to avoid, as far as possible, the contingency of a birth in the ambulance.

Unfortunately, expected dates are not always accurate and some fine decisions have to be made as to whether, once labour has commenced, the case should go to Tunbridge Wells or be sent in as an emergency case to the often overcrowded Chatham County Hospital. I would commend in this respect the highly efficient ambulance staff under Captain Hole. The general rule is—if labour has commenced in a multipara—Chatham Hospital; in a primipara, if not more than 1 hour's duration—Tunbridge Wells. If in doubt—Chatham Hospital. This has worked well and no births have occurred on the journey to Tunbridge Wells but obviously it would be much more satisfactory if all cases could be admitted to a local hospital.

Home Help Service

The following regulations govern Home Helps:—

1. Full time Home Helps will attend for 6 days per week—Monday to Friday 7.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m., Saturday 7.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m., but from 1 to 3 p.m. she will be off duty. The hours may be varied to meet the wishes of the patient with the written consent of the Medical Officer of Health, but only so that the hours on duty is not less than 47 hours per week.

2. Part-time Home Helps will attend for part-time only, i.e., 4 hours daily, Monday to Friday, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours on Saturday.

3. Full time Home Helps will be paid £4 14s. od. per week and part-time Home Helps at 2s. od. per hour, on production of a form signed by the patient stating that the work has been satisfactory.

4. She must cook for the family and give general supervision to the children, preparing them for school and, if necessary, putting them to bed. She will undertake any domestic washing for the children if needed and will be responsible for keeping the house clean and in good order.

5. She must immediately inform the Medical Officer of Health, whether she is on duty or not, of the occurrence of any infectious disease in her household. "Infectious Disease" includes ordinary colds and sore throats.

6. She must provide and cook her own food.

7. She must not interfere in any way with the instructions of the doctor or midwife.

8. She is not to undertake any duties of the nurse.

9. She must not discuss the family affairs or domestic conditions of the household.

10. She must undertake that as long as she is on the list of Home Helps she will not attend any confinement unless a state registered nurse or midwife is in attendance.

11. The work of the Home Helps will be under the supervision of duly appointed members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and Officials of the Public Health Department.

12. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A HOME HELP REPORTS IMMEDIATELY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IF SHE IS OFF DUTY AND LATE TIME KEEPING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. ANY HOME HELP WHO BREAKS THIS RULE WILL BE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL.

13. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO THE PROCEDURE TO BE TAKEN, CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH MY DEPARTMENT (Telephone No. 3663) FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

The Health Visitors paid 122 visits for this purpose.

Payment by the patient is on a sliding scale which takes into account rent, rates, necessary expenses and the number of persons in the family.

Number of Domestic Home Helps employed at the end of the year, 39.

Number of patients who availed themselves of this service, 81.

Domestic Help Service

The same regulations govern Domestic Helps as for the Home Help Service, except for paragraphs 1 and 10. The types of cases dealt with are as follows:—

- (a) Where the housewife falls sick or must have an operation.
- (b) Where the wife is suddenly called away to see her husband in hospital, and arrangements have to be made to look after the children.
- (c) With elderly people who are infirm, or one of whom suddenly falls ill.
- (d) Where several members are ill at the same time, e.g., during an Influenza epidemic.

Payment by the patient is on the same basis as that for the HOME HELP Scheme.

No. of patients who availed themselves of this service, 84.

Both schemes have been running very satisfactorily.

Day Nursery

This nursery is situated at Maida Road, Luton, and is available for 60 children aged 1—5 years for day care. Children are admitted in the following order of priority:—

- (a) Children of mothers engaged in vital industrial production.
- (b) Children of mothers employed as nurses, shop assistants, 'bus conductresses, domestic and other employment as the Council may from time to time determine.
- (c) Children of mothers who are ill, or during confinement.
- (d) Children of employed unmarried mothers.
- (e) Children of mothers separated from their husbands, or widows.

subject to provision being made for five vacancies to meet cases of possible emergency as determined by the Medical Officer of Health.

Children under 1 year are not admitted due to the susceptibility of such children to infection.

HOURS OF OPENING

MONDAY—FRIDAY	...	7.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
SATURDAY	... ..	7.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In the early part of the year the numbers attending were rather low and reduction of staff took place in June. There are only six nursery nurse staff, including Matron.

The increase in numbers in the second half of the year imposed a strain on the staff and I would wish to record my high appreciation of the work of the Matron—Miss Raine—in meeting all demands with such few staff.

DAY NURSERY—YEAR ENDING, 31st DECEMBER, 1947

	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
No. of children on Nursery Register on last day of month ...	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5
Average Attendance ...	8	30	4	25	12	27	16	33	14	36	15	37	16	40	14	36	13	43	11	42	15	39	14	39
Highest Attendance ...	3.5	18	3.0	20.3	5.4	20.5	10.2	20.6	11.8	27.7	10.0	21.18	10.3	19.3	8.3	17.8	3.0	22.12	6.14	28.22	11.9	31.2	10.14	30.16
No. of Mothers whose children on the last day were on Register of month:—	8	26	3	21	10	22	15	30	13	32	14	32	13	29	11	19	6	33	10	36	15	37	14	34
(1) In Employment	26		22		32		37		38		41		41		38		46		44		46		46	
(a) Whole-time	5		4		5		6		6		6		7		5		4		4		3		3	
(2) Compassionate Cases	1		—		—		—		—		—		2		2		1		2		1		—	
Totals	32		26		37		43		44		47		50		45		51		50		50		49	
No. of days open during month	27		24		26		23		25		25		27		23		26		27		25		24	

Nursing Homes

On the register there is one nursing home which has accommodation for 20 maternity patients. This will undoubtedly alleviate considerably the shortage of maternity bed accommodation in this district.

Notification of Births

Total number of live births notified...	...	...	...	1037
Births notified by midwives	...	...	...	531
Births notified by Doctors	...	...	...	11
Births notified in the County Hospital	...	...	...	254
Births notified in the Royal Naval Maternity Home	...	...	...	73
Births notified in other Homes or Hospitals	...	...	...	168
Still Births	...	...	...	19

Notified Births, Home Address not in Chatham

Total	...	...	...	...	...	842
County Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	510
Other Homes or Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	332
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	29

Wards

St. Mary's	...	119	Christchurch	...	164
St. John's	...	220	Luton	...	234
St. Michael's	...	133	St. Paul's	...	167

Health Visitors—Visits

Month	Total Home Visits	Child Welfare			Ante Natal		Special
		0—1		1—5	1st	Subs	
		1st	Subs				
January	606	72	193	158	10	1	172
February	504	87	191	142	5	1	78
March	662	95	294	188	4	2	79
April	427	102	135	148	2	—	40
May	740	104	305	278	2	1	50
June	691	84	302	261	9	1	34
July	658	79	279	254	7	2	37
August	703	99	263	274	7	—	60
September	478	65	195	189	3	2	24
October	514	77	205	185	1	1	45
November	475	73	217	145	6	3	31
December	429	86	139	178	4	—	22
Totals	6887	1023	2718	2400	60	14	672

Attendances at Clinics

ELM HOUSE

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend	Subs.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
January	197	40	29	2	53	67	1
February	100	26	22	3	42	52	—
March	225	42	28	3	46	45	2
April	282	57	32	4	35	69	4
May	295	60	25	1	32	63	1
June	270	43	27	2	56	73	2
July	349	63	39	5	35	70	2
August	260	36	18	—	29	69	6
September	295	57	24	1	31	43	5
October	274	43	26	3	51	70	4
November	249	48	24	2	30	48	2
December	237	37	16	3	22	51	2
Totals	3033	552	310	29	462	720	31

KING'S ROAD

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New	Cases	1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
January	100	16	8	—	9	33	2
February	68	13	9	1	10	31	—
March	184	45	26	4	19	30	—
April	134	29	11	2	20	41	3
May	125	22	11	—	7	27	1
June	246	62	29	2	19	35	2
July	239	37	11	1	17	48	3
August	211	51	25	3	17	28	7
September	222	58	17	2	15	33	2
October	212	34	25	1	21	38	3
November	172	51	15	3	14	29	2
December	148	31	14	1	8	30	2
Totals	2061	449	201	20	176	403	27

WHITE ROAD

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
January	47	7	17	1	7	6	—
February	33	4	4	1	11	14	—
March	113	20	13	1	11	10	1
April	108	15	20	3	8	25	4
May	106	12	6	1	8	16	1
June	212	27	23	1	5	23	9
July	187	55	26	9	7	27	4
August	148	35	11	5	3	13	5
September	231	32	25	—	11	25	3
October	221	46	15	2	5	19	1
November	212	36	13	—	7	11	2
December	209	34	11	—	8	12	—
Totals	1827	323	184	24	91	201	30

WALDESLADE

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
January	8	5	—	—	—	—	—
February	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
March	19	11	1	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	6	3	—	—	—	—	—
June	12	8	3	—	—	—	—
July	10	11	3	3	—	—	—
August	10	2	1	—	—	—	—
September	13	9	2	—	—	—	—
October	14	10	2	1	—	—	—
November	14	9	4	2	—	—	—
December	14	4	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	124	73	17	6	—	—	—

TOTALS—ALL CLINICS

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
January	352	68	54	3	69	106	3
February	205	44	35	5	63	97	—
March	541	118	68	8	76	85	3
April	524	101	63	9	93	135	11
May	532	97	42	2	47	106	3
June	740	140	82	5	80	131	13
July	785	166	79	18	59	145	9
August	629	124	55	8	49	110	18
September	761	156	68	3	57	101	10
October	721	133	68	7	77	127	8
November	647	144	56	7	51	88	6
December	608	106	42	4	38	93	4
Totals	7045	1397	702	79	720	1324	88

It will be seen that the branch clinics at White Road and King's Road have amply justified themselves. Extra non-medical sessions had to be arranged for both.

Infantile Mortality

The infant mortality rate of 38.5 is again very satisfactory, especially considering the conditions in which so many live.

Each death under 2 has been investigated with much the same results as last year. Prematurity and congenital defects together represent half the deaths, whilst the infectious disease group, including infant diarrhoea, account for half the remainder.

Again, it is surprising to find how seldom overcrowding, poverty and lack of cleanliness can be considered as contributing causes, but bottle feeding appears to be a very potent contributory cause. Excluding premature birth and congenital defects, only five out of the remaining twenty were breast fed.

Thirty-three out of forty had taken up the extra vitamins supplied by the Ministry of Food either ante-natally and/or for the baby.

INFANT MORTALITY

Cause of Death	No.	Overcrowding		Feeding		Financial Circumstances			Cleanliness			Attend Clinics		Mother Working		Min. of Food Vita-mins
		Yes	No.	Breast	Bottle	Poor	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Good	A.N.	C.W.	A.N.	P.N.	
Prematurity ...	18	1	17	15	2	1	7	10	1	2	15	12	—	3	1	15
Congen. Defects ...	2*	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	6	1	5	2	6	1	5	—	1	3	2	4	—	1	—	5
Gastro Enteritis ...	6	—	6	2	5	1	1	4	—	1	5	7	2	1	—	6
Other Infectious Diseases ...	4	—	4	—	4	—	2	2	—	—	4	2	2	1	—	4
Accidents at Birth	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others ...	3	—	3	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	3
Totals ...	40*	2	37	20	20	3	17	19	3	7	29	30	4	6	1	33

AGES AT DEATH—
 12 hrs. 12-24 hrs. 1-7 days 8-28 days 1 mth. 2 mths. 3 mths. 4 mths. 5 mths. 6 mths. 7 mths. 8 mths. 9 mths.
 5 3 9 5 4 3 2 — 2 3 1 — 2
 10 mths. 11 mths.

AGES AT DEATH—PREMATURITY AND CONGENITAL DEFECTS—
 12 hrs. 1-7 days 8-28 days
 6 10 3
 Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births ... 38.5
 Neonatal Mortality per 1,000 live births ... 21.2

* 1 case, no information.

The Care of Premature Infants

In accordance with Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, the Council purchased the following articles:—

1 draught-proof cot; 2 electric blanket pads; 2 special feeding bottles; 2 thermometers; 2 mucus catheters; 4 rubber hot water bottles.

These outfits are sent out on loan, free of charge, on the request of Doctors or Midwives, and in order to cover exceptional demands we have an agreement with Rochester that if all our outfits are out they will loan an outfit to Chatham, and vice versa.

The No. of premature babies notified during 1947 whose mothers are normally resident in Chatham, was:—51*

* Babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth, irrespective of the period of gestation. Still births are not included in this figure.

The total number of premature babies notified during 1947 who were born:—

1. At home—20.
2. In hospital or nursing home—34.

The number of those born at home:—

1. who were nursed entirely at home—20.
2. who died during the first 24 hours—Nil.
3. who survived at the end of one month—19.

The number of those born in hospital or nursing home:—

1. who died during the first 24 hours—1.
2. who survived at the end of 1 month—28.

Illegitimate Children

The following arrangements agreed at a meeting of Maternity and Child Welfare local authorities' representatives in Kent were adopted and have worked very well.

1. That the medical officers of the respective welfare authorities be responsible for ensuring close co-operation between officers of the authority, particularly the health visitors, and the voluntary organisations concerned with the problem.

2. That approval be given to the appointment of an additional visitor to the headquarters staff of the County Council to assist in administration and co-ordination and with the investigation of special cases, the officer to have, if practicable, special qualifications and training in this type of social work. Where the services of this officer are utilised by autonomous welfare authorities, they be asked to contribute towards her salary and expenses on the basis of user during each financial year.

3. That wherever possible the expectant mother should be persuaded to make known her circumstances to her parents and, if the home is likely to be a satisfactory one, persuade the grandparents to make a home there for the child.

4. That the expectant mother should be advised on suitable accommodation before and immediately after confinement, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

5. That the mother should be assisted to obtain an affiliation order or otherwise to secure assistance from the father of the child; if the mother so desires the assistance of the Probation Officer to be sought.

6. That the mother shall be assisted to find employment, preferably with her baby, in an institution or in private employment; in this connection the assistance of the appropriate officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to be enlisted at an early stage.

7. That, if a home cannot be found for the baby with the mother's relatives, lodgings for the mother and baby should be sought when she desires non-resident work, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

8. That a suitable foster mother should be sought if it is necessary for the mother and baby to be separated, the Welfare Authority undertaking to give financial assistance towards the cost.

9. That places should be sought in a residential nursery or home for babies whose mothers cannot look after them, and for whom accommodation cannot be found by other means, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

10. That in special cases, e.g., where the mother is very young or is the wife of a man not the father of the child, every help should be given to the mother in regard to legal adoption.

11. That the advice given should be followed up and every effort made to ensure that the baby is kept under observation at the Child Welfare Centre until the education authority or other body or person appointed by the Court to act in connection with adoption proceedings takes the case in hand.

12. That any cases in which difficulties arise or special action or advice is required, be referred to the County Medical Officer for consultation, and, if necessary, special investigation.

13. That to facilitate early supervision and assistance, health visitors, midwives, probation officers, moral welfare workers and others who may be concerned should notify the County Medical Officer of cases in the County welfare area, or the respective Medical Officers of Health of cases in autonomous welfare areas, of any unmarried pregnant woman or girl who is known to need or is likely to need help, in order that steps to care for her during pregnancy and arrangements for her and the child after birth can be co-ordinated.

14. That autonomous welfare authorities be recommended to take action on the same lines as the County Council, particularly

as regards the granting of financial assistance to voluntary bodies under paragraphs (4), (7) and (9).

15. That the County Council do immediately endeavour to obtain premises suitable for adaptation as a residential nursery to which children could be admitted as soon as the mothers are able to return to work, this establishment to be available for the reception of children from the autonomous welfare areas upon their agreeing to bear in respect of such cases the ascertained weekly cost of maintenance.

16. That, pending exploration of the possibility of the establishment as a permanent part of the County maternity and child welfare scheme of a post-natal hostel in which mothers and children could be accommodated during the period between discharge from hospital and fitness for employment, negotiations be opened by the County Council with the Ministry of Health for the admission of these cases, both from the County and autonomous welfare areas, to a post-natal hostel expected to be established by the County Council on behalf of the Ministry under the Government Evacuation Scheme, the cost of maintenance to be borne by the responsible welfare authority at such rates as the Ministry may decide. The average duration of stay of the mother and child in such a hostel should be three months.

If and when a similar post-natal hostel is established by the County Council as part of its welfare scheme, autonomous authorities to be permitted to make use thereof on a cost of maintenance basis.

Provision of Consultants for Difficult Maternity Cases

Provision has been made whereby a Consultant is available to be called in by the patient's own Doctor for difficult Maternity Cases either ante-natally or at the confinement.

Maternal Mortality

Deaths occurring during pregnancy and child birth are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

Inspection of Women's Conveniences

The Health Visitor paid periodical visits for this purpose.

Health Propaganda

Most reliance has been placed on the personal talks by Health Visitors but every opportunity has been taken of giving lectures or talks to organised groups such as the Women's Co-operative Guild, by Dr. Niall or myself.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

RAINFALL DURING 1947

I am indebted to Avon E. Crisp, Esq., M.A., M.Inst.C.E., for the following figures taken at Luton Pumping Station:—

	<i>49 years average 1898-1946</i>	<i>Fall in 1947</i>	<i>Monthly Totals</i>
January	2.10	2.14	2.14
February	1.73	1.36	3.50
March	1.70	4.24	7.74
April	1.88	1.35	9.09
May	1.82	1.45	10.54
June	1.73	2.95	13.49
July	2.25	3.67	17.16
August	2.16	0.06	17.22
September	1.76	1.25	18.47
October	2.63	0.50	18.97
November	2.78	0.98	18.97
December	2.40	2.63	22.58

Total Depth in inches 24.94 22.58

The Water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity, except for a few houses not on piped supply. During the prolonged dry spell their supply (rain water) failed and we were indebted to the National Fire Service and the Water Company for filling their tanks.

The water supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company is common to most parts of the three Medway Towns. Samples are submitted monthly for bacteriological examination by each of the three towns of the treated water and by the Water Company of the untreated and treated water. These samples are so spaced as to give a weekly examination of the treated water. All samples of treated water have shown a very high standard of bacterial purity but, occasionally, an untreated sample has shown bac coli (presumptive) present in 50 c.c. Chlorination must, therefore, be continued as it must, in any public water supply derived from deep wells in the chalk.

The quantity of water consumed is still rising and some anxiety is felt as to whether sufficient water is available, not only here but in the county generally, to cope with much further increase in requirements. For this reason, the council supported the opposition by Kent County Council to the application by London for a supply of water from Kent. The quantity of water extracted is getting near the theoretical maximum in proportion to the rainfall.

The water is very hard and has no plumbo solvency. As soon as practicable, a water softening and dechlorination plant should be installed.

All possible action to enforce connection to the sewers and abolition of cesspools has been taken and a large scheme of sewer extension has been adopted.

The number of dwelling houses having a piped supply is:—
13,250.

There are 10 houses and a varying number of caravans on the Gypsy Encampment dependant on standpipes.

The councils of the three Medway Towns have made application to the Boundary Commission for amalgamation as a "new" County Borough, with an increase in area to include the more important parts of the watershed area. This inclusion is most important so that we may control development which might lead to contamination of the raw water.

Drainage and Sewerage

Houses connected to the Public Sewers during the year were:—
60.

A considerable scheme for extension of foul and storm water sewers was finally approved by the Ministry of Health.

Two very heavy thunderstorms about Midsummer caused considerable flooding and this was taken into consideration in the planning of the new sewers.

Rivers and Streams

A large tidal river like the Medway is necessarily polluted, but being tidal, the dilution is great and no action has been found necessary.

Public Cleansing

General public cleansing of street gullies, household and trade refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department, Disposal is by controlled tipping.

The old tip in close proximity to the new Housing Estate has been closed and a new one opened on Capstone Farm with much more control of tipping.

In accordance with the decision of the Council, all rubbish tipped must be covered the same night.

The conditions of most of the dustbins is deplorable. The council decided to supply dustbins of approved pattern to all householders at a very small charge. It was recognised that to do so for the whole borough at once would be impossible and when tenders for the supply of even 600 were opened, no firm prices or definite delivery dates could be obtained. It was reluctantly decided, therefore, to postpone the scheme.

Many reasons can be put forward for the provision of dustbins by the occupier. Equally good reasons can be put forward that they should be provided by the landlord, but an insanitary dustbin is a menace to the health, not only of the householder, but to a large circle of the neighbours.

The dustbin is, after all, an essential link in the machinery of refuse collection and disposal and the only practical method of ensuring it is satisfactory is for it to be provided by the municipality. Arrangements can then be made for its proper maintenance and cleansing.

The Health Committee agreed that refuse should be collected twice weekly in the Summer months but this resolution was, unfortunately, rescinded on a question of cost.

Public Baths

Facilities for hot baths are provided at the County Hospital, Chatham on Fridays and Saturdays.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2209
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	4947
2. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1138

2. Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	478
--	-----

3. Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	768
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	603
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |

New Houses During 1947

- (a) The total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during 1947 was 64.
- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (b) The total number of houses erected during 1947 | ... | ... | 177 |
| (c) Houses erected by Local Authority | ... | ... | 162 |
| (d) Houses erected by other Persons | ... | ... | 15 |

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This is a very important duty of a Public Health Department and much of the Sanitary Inspectors' time is occupied in visiting slaughterhouses and premises where food is prepared or sold.

Potted and Preserved Meat

The supervision of this class of business is important. Ready cooked and prepared foods are being increasingly used by the public and a close watch is kept on such premises.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Particulars are included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

These examinations are carried out by the County Analyst by arrangement with Kent County Council.

Ice Cream

The Ice Cream regulations, 1947, have not proved very effective. In particular, we have practically no control of street traders—the most dangerous form of ice cream trading.

It cannot be sufficiently emphasized that freezing does not kill disease germs, in fact it preserves them.

The present regulations deal with premises and apparatus. They do not deal with the suitability of the persons who work there, yet it is a well known fact that a conscientious trader working with comparatively primitive apparatus can and does produce a much safer article than a careless trader with all the finest apparatus and premises that money can buy.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

(a) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1947

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	7	7	2
Scarlet Fever	22	6	—
Pneumonia	20	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	5	—
Erysipelas	11	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	179	2	2
Measles	189	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—

(b) Infectious Diseases (Ages)

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Malaria	Dysentery
0 —	23	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1 —	51	66	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
3 —	42	41	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	61	66	14	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 —	2	5	2	5	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	—	—	1	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 —	—	1	1	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 —	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	179	189	22	7	11	20	7	1	—	2	1	—	1

(c) Infectious Diseases. (Wards).

Wards	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Malaria	Dysentery
St. Mary's	16	12	1	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
St. John's	27	25	4	—	3	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
St. Michael's	24	26	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Paul's	42	18	6	6	5	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
Luton	40	61	9	—	1	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Christ Church	30	47	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	179	189	22	7	11	20	7	1	—	2	1	—	1

(d) Table Showing Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases, 1928-1947

Year	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Malaria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery
1928			223	447	—	7	12	—	7	29	—	1	2	—
1929			61	98	6	4	13	1	14	24	5	—	2	—
1930			84	44	2	2	21	—	4	7	2	—	1	—
1931			58	26	2	6	11	—	1	20	—	1	—	—
1932			149	11	16	4	11	—	4	21	6	—	—	—
1933			146	25	2	1	10	—	2	29	2	—	—	—
1934			114	31	1	2	17	—	2	19	—	—	—	—
1935			44	22	2	2	17	—	—	30	—	—	—	—
1936			40	25	—	1	21	—	4	20	1	—	—	—
1937			160	261	—	9	28	—	3	14	—	4	—	—
1938			233	208	4	4	19	—	2	23	—	—	—	—
1939			61	86	—	7	10	—	1	19	1	—	—	—
1940	79	12	20	13	—	8	14	—	4	22	2	—	—	—
1941	413	120	20	4	12	9	4	—	4	12	5	—	—	—
1942	417	219	38	8	—	16	7	—	5	32	6	1	—	—
1943	412	91	124	16	—	12	17	—	—	44	—	—	—	—
1944	201	182	48	12	1	18	18	2	3	29	3	—	—	4
1945	446	111	52	9	1	23	16	—	1	34	1	3	1	1
1946	568	52	26	2	—	4	16	5	—	27	2	1	—	—
1947	189	179	22	7	1	7	11	—	—	20	1	2	—	1

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

For notifiable infectious diseases accommodation is available at St. William's Hospital, Rochester, and is used jointly by Chatham and Rochester. On a basis of 144 square feet per bed there is accommodation for 86 patients, and if necessary this could be extended on the present site.

Scarlet Fever

Cases notified	...	...	...	...	...	22
Removed to hospital	...	...	...	...	...	6
Households affected with 1 case	...	...	...	...	...	22
Households affected with 2 cases	...	...	...	...	...	—
Households affected with 3 cases	...	...	...	...	...	—
Households affected with 4 cases	...	...	...	...	...	—
County Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	—

Diphtheria

Cases notified	...	...	...	...	...	7
Removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	7
Households with 1 case	...	...	...	...	...	5
Households with 2 cases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Households with 3 cases	...	...	...	...	...	—
Households with 4 cases	...	...	...	...	...	—
County Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	2

Of the 7 cases of Diphtheria, the 2 who died had not been immunised—one was only 10 months old. The others had all been immunised—2 in 1939, 2 in 1944 and 1 in 1945. All were mild cases.

The death of the 10 months old child was taken as a pointer to earlier immunisation and, after consulting the Ministry of Health, we commenced a new routine for immunisation. We now do all we can to get the first dose, 0.5 c.c. A.P.T., at 6 months, the second—also of 0.5 c.c. A.P.T. at 12 months, and a “Booster” dose of 0.5 c.c. A.P.T. on entering school. No untoward reactions to this dosage have been seen.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria

The Clinic first opened at the end of 1929 and is held at Elm House on Wednesdays p.m. (except the last Wednesday in the month) and at White Road and Kings Road Clinics on the last Wednesday in the month p.m.

The following table shows the numbers and ages of children who attended the Clinic.

	0—1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—6 years	6—7 years	7—8 years	8—9 years	9—10 years	10—11 years	11—12 years	12—13 years	13—14 years	14—15 years
Immunised	10	208	36	16	16	11	10	6	8	6	6	—	—	—	—
Boosting Doses	—	—	—	—	35	92	41	46	57	38	24	5	5	4	1

The yearly figures are as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Immunised</i>	<i>Boosting Doses</i>
1932	561	—
1933	405	—
1934	359	—
1935	482	—
1936	395	—
1937	381	—
1938	129	—
1939	80	—
1940	—	—
1941	514	—
1942	2399	—
1943	825	—
1944	576	—
1945	546	—
1946	602	75
1947	426	348

Supply of Anti Toxin

Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Public Health Department Elm House, 15 New Road Avenue, Chatham, and at the Central Fire Station, Railway Street, Chatham, and is supplied free of charge to medical practitioners. It can be obtained at any hour of the day or night.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Notified	Cases		Vision Impaired	Vision Un-impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Acute Poliomyelitis

Only 2 cases occurred, with no deaths, but severe disablement resulted in both.

Cerebro Spinal Fever

There was only one case during the year.

Smallpox

There were no cases.

Vaccination

I am indebted to Mrs. J. Vernal, the Vaccination Officer for the following information:—

Number of births registered	...	...	...	1723
Number of certificates of successful vaccination				1005
Number of Statutory Declarations of Objection				393
Number of Certificates of Insusceptibility	...			11
Number of Certificates of Postponement		...		30
Number of cases removed from district	...	...		59
Number of cases otherwise not traced	...	...		33

(The above figures include all children born in the County Hospital and St. Christopher's Maternity Home, irrespective of home address).

Cancer

The facilities for diagnosis are—General Practitioners, the County and Voluntary Hospitals.

The total number of deaths was 89, allocated as follows:—

					Male	Female
Buc. cav. and oesoph. (M)	uterus (F).	...			6	7
Stomach and duodenum		...	...	...	5	2
Breast	...	...	...	...	—	9
All other sites	...	...	...	...	35	25

Venereal Disease

The treatment centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36 New Road, Rochester. I am indebted to Dr. E. F. Prebble, Director, for the following particulars:—

<i>New Patients—Chatham</i>					Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	8	16	24
Chancroid	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	28	8	36
Non-Venereal	...	...	...	...	48	24	72
					84	48	132

Total No. of new patients from all districts served	...	436
Total attendances of Chatham patients	...	1662
Total attendances of patients from all districts	...	5842

					Sy.	Gon.
Total number of patients treated with						
Penicillin	...	...	...	...	135	119

DISCHARGES (all districts served)

Discharged Cured:—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Chancroid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	...	...	275

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

The following table shows the number of cases from Chatham since 1938:—

		1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Gonorrhoea	...	29	39	46	73	40	26	64	22	20	36
Syphilis	...	12	16	23	60	43	13	15	10	16	24
Non-Venereal	...	46	42	42	43	39	49	233	59	69	72

Notification of Tuberculosis

PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

NON-PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947:—

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ...	1	—	1	3	—	—	2	—
5-15 years ...	2	3	2	3	1	1	—	—
15-25 years ...	9	9	3	3	5	4	—	—
25-35 years ...	9	3	1	3	2	3	—	—
35-45 years ...	10	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
45-55 years ...	2	2	—	1	3	1	—	—
55-65 years ...	5	—	—	—	5	1	—	—
65 years up ...	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	39	20	7	14	19	13	2	—

The following table gives comparative figures of notifications and deaths since 1938:—

Year	Pulmonary						Non-Pulmonary					
	Notifications			Deaths			Notifications			Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1938	26	25	51	20	17	37	8	13	21	3	3	6
1939	39	18	47	17	10	27	10	2	12	3	—	3
1940	27	21	48	14	9	23	5	4	9	5	3	8
1941	36	23	59	16	17	33	3	6	9	2	5	7
1942	34	23	57	22	8	30	11	11	22	3	5	8
1943	27	30	57	21	16	37	5	2	7	—	3	3
1944	52	40	92	21	21	42	7	4	11	1	2	3
1945	32	35	67	18	15	33	5	3	8	2	3	5
1946	49	26	75	26	10	36	4	5	9	1	—	1
1947	39	20	59	19	13	32	7	14	21	2	—	2

I am indebted to Dr. S. Roy C. Price, Tuberculosis Officer, for the following information:—

Particulars of patients from the Chatham Area dealt with at the County Dispensary, Rochester, during the year 1947.

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Totals			
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Def. T.B.	27	20	2	2	4	3	1	5	31	23	3	7
Non T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	83	93	53	39
Total New Cases	27	20	2	2	4	3	1	5	114	116	56	46

Delay in Notification

<i>Name</i>	<i>Notification Received</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
H.B.	18.1.1947	26.2.1947
H.B.	23.5.1947	21.6.1947
S.R.	24.7.1947	21.7.1947
J.S.	8.7.1947	6.8.1947

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1947:—

County Hospital, Lenham	...	...	...	...	9
County Hospital, Chatham	...	...	...	...	18
County Hospital, Pembury	...	...	...	...	3
County Hospital, Orpington	...	...	...	...	1
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Ashford	...	...	...	...	1
Keycol Hill Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	6
London Chest Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Kettlewell Hospital, Swanley	...	...	...	...	5
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate	...	...	...	...	1
King George's Sanatorium, Liphook	...	...	...	...	1
Nayland Sanatorium, Colchester	...	...	...	...	1
Preston Hall Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	3
Edward Bolitho Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					51
					—

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1947

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Chatham*

MR. MAYOR, MESDAMES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and the Sanitary Depot for the year 1947. The existing difficulties in the way of shortages of labour and materials, although the position eased slightly during the year, still added considerably to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors by causing many more unproductive secondary visits. It was, however, possible to get 478 sanitary defects remedied without having recourse to Statutory Notices.

The general public are realising the importance of good quality and clean food. It would be in their interests if any cases of mis-handling of food could be reported to this Department for investigation thus enabling the incident to be brought to the notice of the shopkeepers and their employees with a view to preventing a repetition.

The inspection of ice cream premises and consequent sampling, also takes up a considerable proportion of the Sanitary Inspectors' time.

During the year, one modern dairy equipped with pasteurisation plant was erected.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. HOWARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

CHATHAM,

24th June, 1948.

Drainage Connections to the Corporation Sewers

During the year, a further 260 premises were connected to the Corporation Sewers, of which 216 were new Council Houses. There is still a shortage of drainage materials, which is making it more difficult to get houses connected to the foul sewers.

Cesspool Work

1,339 complaints of choked drains were received, and it was found possible to clear 1,132 drains from obstruction. Overflowing cesspools made up the remainder of the complaints. The number of cesspools emptied was 420.

Cowsheds and Dairies

There are 6 registered cow keepers with 14 cowsheds in the Borough. Of these:—

1 is a producer of Tuberculin Tested milk and 2 producers of Accredited Milk.

Owing to the Borough being zoned for the distribution of milk, there are 14 retail purveyors of milk.

The major supply of milk is heat treated.

Bacteriological Analysis of Water, Milk and Ice Cream

The following samples were collected and submitted to the County Laboratory for analysis:—

WATER

35 samples of water.

MILK.

	<i>No. of samples taken</i>	<i>No. of unsatisfactory samples</i>
"Accredited"	8	—
"Tuberculin Tested" ...	7	2
Non-designated	8	2

No. of samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination—67.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected since 1941:—

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
1941 ...	2066	707	1187	12462	901	17323
1942 ...	1322	479	520	8235	1153	11709
1943 ...	1165	546	1025	6641	466	9861
1944 ...	1341	1087	963	4956	1147	9494
1945 ...	1425	990	1251	3313	1626	8605
1946 ...	1920	1065	3326	5079	1429	12819
1947 ...	850	349	986	2709	684	5578

Unsound Food Voluntarily Surrendered, 1946

The total amount of meat and other foods condemned was 66 tons 3 cwts. 0 qrs. 3 lbs.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
All meat, including Home-killed meat ...	22	2	1	24
Fish	3	2	2	3
Tinned and other Foods	40	18	—	4

Bakehouses

There are 16 Bakehouses in the Borough.

Ice Cream

Four premises are registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and 32 for the sale and storage of ice cream.

Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis

Particulars of all cases notified and removed to Hospital will be found in Section F. of this report.

Disinfestation of Bedding, etc.

Bedding from Council House Applicants fumigated	76
Furniture from Council House Applicants disinfected	76
Council House rooms fumigated for vermin	68
Rooms of other houses fumigated for vermin	91
Bedding, etc., from local business firms (not vermin)	39
Infectious disease—rooms disinfected	52
Infectious disease—bedding fumigated	64
Library Books disinfected (Infectious Diseases) ...	3
Library Books dried after Flooding	222

Common Lodging Houses

There is one Common Lodging House on the register.

Fish Fryers

There are 24 Fish Fryers on the register.

Mortuary

The following bodies were removed to the public mortuary:—

Adult Males	18
Adult Females	8
Male Children	—
Female Children	2

Post Mortems were carried out on 23 bodies, 3 bodies were buried at the expense of the Parish.

Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts

One case of suspected Swine Fever was reported, but was not confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Requisitioning of Vacant Houses

During the year enquiries were made into 68 Vacant Houses, with a view to requisitioning. In all cases the houses were occupied.

The main cause of delay was the time lag in transferring the deeds of houses to new purchasers and redecoration.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at 31st December, 1947, was 28.

Pig Swill

The amount of pig swill collected during the year was 57 tons 9½ cwts., for which an amount of £110 6s. 3d. was received. The rationing of potatoes adversely affected the amount of pig swill collected.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected ...	850	349	986	2709	684	5578
All Diseases except Tuber- culosis—						
Whole carcases condemned	3	3	4	14	5	29
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	308	144	4	162	24	642
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	36.6	42.1	0.8	6.5	4.2	12.0
Tuberculosis Only—						
Whole carcases condemned	9	15	—	—	2	26
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	133	137	3	—	8	281
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	16.6	43.6	0.3	—	1.5	5.5

Rat Destruction

No. of rats caught in dwellinghouses ...	...	...	232
No. of rats caught in business premises ...	...	...	455
No. of rats caught at farms ...	...	...	822
No. of rats caught at refuse shoot ...	...	...	24
Total	...	...	1533

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out in the Borough during the year.

Food and Drugs Act 1938

During the year 120 samples of food and drugs were taken as per the following table:—

Article	No. of Samples		Result of Analysis		Genuine Good Quality
	Formal	Informal	Adulterated		
			Formal	Informal	
Milk	85	14	1	—	96
Cake Flour	—	1	—	—	1
Fish Paste	—	1	—	—	1
Gravy Browning	—	1	—	—	1
Mustard	—	1	—	—	1
Wine Gums	—	1	—	1	—
Margarine	—	1	—	—	1
Coffee	—	1	—	—	1
Butter	—	1	—	—	1
Jam	—	2	—	—	2
Fat	—	1	—	—	1
Aspirin	—	1	—	—	1
Vinegar	—	1	—	—	1
Baking Powder	—	2	—	—	2
Black Pepper	—	1	—	—	1
Sugar	—	1	—	—	1
Tea	—	1	—	—	1
Camphorated Oil	—	1	—	—	1
Cough Mixture	—	1	—	—	1
White Pepper	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	85	35	2	2	116

The wine gums were found to contain gritty particles and certified as unfit for food, the remainder of consignment was surrendered. The adulterated milk samples were added water and a successful prosecution followed. Vendor fined £5 and 25/- costs.

Notices Served

During the year the following Notices were served:—

No. of Informal Notices	1,138
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1947 Informal Notices	709
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1946 Informal Notices	59
Total No. of Statutory Notices served during the year ...	768

Of these, the following were completed:—

No. of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served	478
No. of Statutory Notices completed	603
Total No. of Notices completed in year 1947	1,081

Visits Made by the Sanitary Inspectors During the Year

Restaurants	159
Drainage and subsequent visits	608
Repairs and subsequent visits	4,947
Housing Act	89
Slaughter-houses	456
Common Lodging Houses	13
Fish Fryers	44
Marine Stores	13
Knackers Yard	8
Cowsheds	52
Milk Shops	108
Factories	13
Bakehouses	36
Houses (first visits)	2,209
Ice Cream Vendors	164
Public Conveniences	68
Contagious Diseases of Animals Act	39
Stables	21
Courts and Alleys	178
Piggeries	20
Infectious Disease	80
Tuberculosis	63
Overcrowding	2
Bedding and Disinfection	17
Unsound Food and Cold Store	343
Food Shops	204
Schools	41
Drains Tested (New)	83
Drains Tested (Old)	14
Cesspools	114
Verminous Premises	135
Council House Applicants	13
Rats Order	133
Gipsy Encampment	87
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	96
Shops	3
Food and Drugs	188
Water Samples	44
Vacant Premises	127
Milk (Special Designations)	14
Milk (Tuberculosis Order)	4
Miscellaneous	594
Ice Cream Samples	24
Land Charges	2

Nuisances Abated.

1. Accumulations of Refuse removed	10
2. W.C. pans replaced	166
3. Ceilings whitened	7

4.	Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	277
5.	Cesspool covers repaired	...	...	...	...	12
6.	Cesspools filled up	...	...	...	...	10
7.	Chimney pots replaced	...	...	...	...	20
8.	Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	54
9.	Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	21
10.	Coppers repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	89
11.	Door locks or fasteners repaired	...	...	...	...	18
12.	Doors or frames repaired	...	...	...	...	41
13.	Doors provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	24
14.	Drainage of old buildings relaid	...	...	...	...	—
15.	Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	16
16.	Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	18
17.	Firegrates renewed	...	...	...	...	16
18.	Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	56
19.	Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	88
20.	Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	139
21.	Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	25
22.	Flues repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	16
23.	Gutters or downpipes cleared	...	...	...	...	60
24.	Gutters or downpipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	339
25.	Inspection covers provided	...	...	...	...	25
26.	Inspection pits provided	...	...	...	...	5
27.	Interiors cleansed	...	...	...	...	13
28.	Keeping animals in unfit state	...	...	...	...	1
29.	Manure pits provided	...	...	...	...	—
30.	Manure pits repaired	...	...	...	...	—
31.	Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	1
32.	Privy structures repaired	...	...	...	...	4
33.	Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	500
34.	Sashcords repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	94
35.	Sash fasteners repaired	...	...	...	...	24
36.	Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	22
37.	Sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	72
38.	Stables drained	...	...	...	...	9
39.	Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	9
40.	Stair treads or steps repaired	...	...	...	...	60
41.	Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	164
42.	Damp walls repaired	...	...	...	...	132
43.	Weatherboarding or external walls repaired	...	...	...	...	33
44.	Windows reglazed	...	...	...	...	49
45.	Window frames, sashes, sills repaired	...	...	...	...	126
46.	W.C. seats or risers repaired	...	...	...	...	36
47.	W.C. structures rebuilt	...	...	...	...	34
48.	Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	28
49.	Yard gully or grills provided	...	...	...	...	17
50.	Verminous bedding or premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
51.	Drains connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	5
52.	Houses reconditioned	...	...	...	...	32
53.	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	218
54.	Vent shaft provided	...	...	...	...	13
55.	New W.C. floors	...	...	...	...	10
56.	Water supply provided	...	...	...	...	58